

# BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL *NEWS*

**May 2003**  
**7:30 PM**

*“Vectors and Victors”*

## **Braddock District Council Meeting Schedule 2002–2003**

May 13                      Carl Sivertsen  
                                    Fairfax County  
                                    Department of Health

## **Dates of Meetings**

May 13, 2003  
June 10, 2003

## **Location of Meetings**

Braddock District  
Meeting Hall  
9002 Burke Lake Road  
Burke, VA 22015

## **BDC Election Candidates**

Chair	Bob Cosgrift (Hickory Farms)
Vice Chair	Janyce Hedetniemi (Oak Hill)
Treasurer	Ivan Dietrich (Little Run)
Recording Secretary	Jeff Nolan (Bonnie Brae)
Correspondence Secretary	Brenda Cammauf (Heritage Court)

## **Chairman’s Message**

Vectors and victors will be the theme of the May meeting. For the former, we’ll have Carl I. Sivertsen from the Fairfax County Dept. of Environmental Health (Fight the Bite) to tell us about West Nile Virus (Say No to MOSquitoes), malaria, and other health threats (Eliminate Standing Water). We usually have space (SAR not SRO), if you wish to bring along a neighbor. As for victors, we’ll have the BDC elections, and we have an excellent slate of candidates.

Last month: After listening to reflections on the recent Virginia legislative session at our April meeting by Del. Jim Dillard, Sen. Dick Saslaw, Sen. Leslie Byrne, Del. Vivian Watts, Del. Chap Peterson, and Sen. Ken Cuccinelli, several community representatives told me that it was best BDC meeting of the year. I took the opportunity to chastise the audience for not inviting their representatives into their communities so their neighbors could learn for themselves how well they are represented. The alternative is voting (or not voting) on the basis of campaign flyers, bumper stickers, and highway signs.

See you at 7:30 p.m. on May 13th in Braddock Hall adjacent to Supervisor Bulova’s office.

John Fee, Chairman

## Keep In Touch

You can get up-to-minute emergency information from Fairfax County Public Schools via e-mail by visiting the FCPS Web site at [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and clicking on the yellow Keep In Touch box. This will enable you to receive emergency announcements and information about school closings due to inclement weather, school board information, calendars, forms, and school-specific information directly from the school system. You can change your options or unsubscribe at any time.

## Simplified Decal Process

Until now, you've had to pay personal property taxes *before* getting your car decals. For some people, that meant waiting in lines at the last minute to purchase decals by October 5. This will change thanks to a new customer service initiative recently approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. During the summer, most vehicle owners who have paid all prior year taxes and parking tickets will receive their decals in advance in the mail, enclosed with their 2003 tax bills. Even though you may receive your decals in advance, you must still pay your vehicle taxes and decal fees as bill by October 5 to avoid late penalties and collection actions. Note: If your vehicle was registered after July 1, 2002, you will need to pay first, then receive a decal. After that, you will be able to participate in the program next year.

## Women Wanted

The Fairfax County Commission for Women, in cooperation with the Virginia Women's Network, has developed a talent bank of women who wish to be considered for appointment to Fairfax County's boards, authorities, advisory groups, and commissions. This Talent Bank is available to the Board of Supervisors or other appointing authorities when vacancies occur among the 70 BACs in

the county. Supervisors are especially interested in women from their districts, although some at-large positions are also available. For more information, contact the Office for Women or the Commission for Women, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 318, Fairfax, VA 22035, or call 703 324-5730.

## Cox Digital Upgrade

Check [www.cox.com/fairfax](http://www.cox.com/fairfax) for information on the progress of Cox Communications digital upgrade work in your neighborhood. The upgrade is about 75% completed now, and should be finished by the end of the year.

The remaining Community Dialogues on Transportation and Land Use are held on Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and are scheduled for May 14 and June 25.

## Don't Hang Up!

If you accidentally dial 911, don't hang up. Stay on the line to inform the call taker that you made a mistake to ensure that police officers do not response. **You should call 911 to report life-threatening emergencies, of course.** Call 703-691-2131 if you want general police, fire, or ambulance information, or to report non-life-threatening events, or to report any event which occurred 30 minutes or more prior to your call.

**News To Use:** [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov)

Report Malfunctioning Streetlights  
Dominion Virginia Power 1-888-667-3000  
You may call toll-free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## SUPERVISOR BULOVA'S CORNER

If you're interested in following the progress of our **Braddock District Community Dialog on Transportation and Land Use**, you can click on our Braddock Web Page at [http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/gov/bos/bd/comm\\_dialogintro.htm](http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/gov/bos/bd/comm_dialogintro.htm). Go to the Syllabus and then the Meeting Summaries to follow the groups' discussions. Since our April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, Dialog participants have organized themselves into three groups: **Land Use and Transportation Planning, Transportation Funding, and Legislative/Governmental Structural Changes**. The Sub-Groups will be bringing a slate of proposed recommendations to the full Community Dialog Group when it meets on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, which is open to anyone interested in observing, participants in the eight part Community Dialog series will discuss their proposed recommendations with me and County staff from our Departments of Transportation, Planning, the County Attorney's office and our Legislative Liaison. A final vote will then be taken to adopt the recommendations on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**The Community Dialog on Transportation and Land Use** will be the subject for our **Spring Braddock District Town Meeting on Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**. Participants in the series will share with the Braddock community their suggestions for "where we go from here" now that last fall's Sales Tax Referendum for Transportation has failed. The program will begin at **7:30 PM at the Kings Park Library Community Room in Burke**, and will be televised on Cable Channel 16. As the date draws nearer, we will know additional re-broadcast dates. Please let your neighborhoods know about the Community Dialog series and Spring Town Meeting!

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** is the final deadline for Nominations for our new **BOB (Best of Braddock) AWARDS!!**. See inside for information on this new program which gives us an opportunity to thank individuals, organizations and employees who have gone out of their way to contribute to our Braddock District quality of life. The awards will be presented at the Braddock District Council's annual picnic on **June 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM at Braddock Hall**. Contact my office at 703 425-9300 or [Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov) for more information.

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, the Board of Supervisors "Marked-up" The County Executive's **Advertised Fiscal Year 2004 Budget**, with formal adoption the following Monday. During the mark-up session, I was reminded of the budget process two years ago, as we made adjustments to the budget our County Executive had referred to as *The Perfect Storm*. For the first time since the late 80's, average real estate values had risen by double digits above the prior year. Local revenues *other* than real estate, however (unlike the 80's), had declined or grown only modestly. Additionally, we were faced with reductions in State funding and a faltering economy. The majority of State reductions affected our School System, triggering pleas to close the gap with local dollars. We didn't know at the time that *The Perfect Storm* would become *The Perfect Storm, A Mini-Series*, as those dynamics continued and additional challenges in the public safety and health arena arose after September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001

Last year, when the Board adopted the Fiscal Year 2003 Budget, reducing the tax rate by two pennies, we adopted a Budget Guideline stating:

*"If Real Estate assessments continue to increase significantly, the Board will direct*

## SUPERVISOR BULOVA'S CORNER (continued)

*the County Executive to develop a budget for FY 2004 that includes a reduction in the Real Estate Tax."*

In response to these guidelines, Tony Griffin incorporated a two cent reduction, arrived at by reducing expenditures from the previous year by \$22.5 million, and increasing a number of user fees and fares (\$5.1 million). **The package we adopted reduced spending by an additional \$28.7 million, and lowered the tax rate from \$1.21 to \$1.16, an additional three cents.** To diversify our revenue and shift some of the burden away from the real estate tax, the Board adopted a cell phone tax (capped at no more than \$3.00 per month) and increased the E-911 telephone fee by 0.75 cents to more fully cover our emergency call-taking operation. Most of our sister jurisdictions have already adopted a cell phone tax. An Ambulance Fee and new user fees to cover the maintenance of Athletic Fields were *not* adopted.

Every budget has its own personality. If I were to give a theme to the 2004 Budget, it would be "*Responsive and Responsible*". The adopted FY 2004 Budget is, I believe, *Responsive* to the needs and concerns of our constituents and reflects a *Responsible* approach toward reducing the real estate tax rate, yet maintaining services and programs people in our County rely upon and value.

The package **reduces all non-School expenditures to almost 1% below last year**. The School Transfer is an increase of approximately 6%, the lowest increase in recent years. Our Transfer to the Schools represents 53.1% of our entire budget, the highest percentage in 20 years. Overall spending in this package increases by 4.7%.

The adopted package represents a **net reduction of 87 positions from FY 2003**. In

fact, since FY 1991, our total position count has increased by only 86, despite our having opened 150 new and expanded facilities (fire and police stations, libraries, SACC centers, etc.) and a population increase of 24%, (the equivalent of adding the entire population of Arlington into our boundaries).

In response to those who would advocate a tax rate reduction of .43 cents, which would result in a .76 cent tax rate, I would like to provide some context. A .43 cent reduction would require \$560 million dollars of reductions. If pro rated across the spectrum of County services, we would be closing libraries, abolishing over 800 public safety positions, eliminating 20% of our County bus routes and reducing the School Transfer by almost \$264 million. We would be destroying the very things our County residents tell us they value and appreciate about living here.

*A reduction of \$560 million is equal to the total funding of the Police Department (\$134 million), the Fire and Rescue Department (\$119 mil), the Office of the Sheriff (\$49 mil), the Health Department (\$41 million), the County's Department of Family Services (\$168 mil, our Public Safety Communications Center (\$7.4 million) and our entire library budget (\$28 million).*

For more information on the newly adopted Fiscal Year 2004 Budget, visit the County's website at <http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/gov/omb/homepage.htm>, or give my office a call and we'll send you copies of the Citizen's Guide to the Budget.

## **SCHOOL BOARD NEWS**

[Ms. Wilson's column was inadvertently omitted from the April newsletter. It is printed here in its entirety.]

As I sit here tonight, I find there is not an issue which comes to mind about the school system on which I would like to write. The TV is on, and I am listening to the terms "embedded reporters," "weapons of mass destruction" and "shock and awe".

I marvel and shudder at the fact that technology has brought the war with Iraq into our very living rooms.

And it's not just adults glued to their television sets. I recently received an e-mail from a student at one of our high schools who was upset that she could no longer access TV news stations during the day to stay informed of the latest news about the war.

The coverage in some way has become hypnotic. I was recently in the office of a federal elected official, and CNN was on non-stop, in the background.

Somehow, the issues of the budget, transportation and taxes have temporarily receded into the background.

This year continues to be a difficult one for all of our students. We went from the sniper, record snow fall, and now to the war in Iraq. The disruption has been extreme. In the fall we moved, cancelled and re-scheduled fall sporting events. We added thirty minutes to the school day to make up lost time. Field trips to Washington, D.C., New York and foreign destinations have been cancelled.

While some will not agree with the decisions we have made, they have been done with the best interest of the students in mind – either for the quality of their education or for their safety.

Yet those decisions also seem to recede in my mind. I know of several recent FCPS graduates who are on active duty in Iraq. It fills me both with pride and dread – pride in their service to our country, and a fear for their safety.

My thoughts and prayers are with them, with all those who are serving and for those who await their return.

All of us will continue to do our jobs, whether as an elected official, a public employee, a school teacher, a blue collar worker, a stay at home parent or a student.

But every so often, our thoughts will stray to those who are temporarily doing their jobs far from home. Hopefully their shining example will help us all start to think a little differently about the issues we face. Their dedication to the common good and willingness to put the welfare of others foremost in their lives is the true definition of "public service."

Tessie Wilson  
Braddock District School Board Member

### **BRADDOCK DISTRICT TO HOST COMMUNITY MEETING ON THE LAUREL HILL PLANNING PROCESS**

As part of the overall planning to create a world-class asset at Laurel Hill (the former Lorton Prison site), Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova will host a community meeting on Tuesday, 27 May from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Braddock Hall. This meeting will serve residents of Springfield and Braddock Districts.

The purpose of the meeting is two-fold. It will provide a means to get information about Laurel Hill and the planning process out to the

citizens, and it will also provide a forum for citizen questions and input. The meeting will open with remarks by Supervisor Bulova and Supervisor McConnell (Springfield), to be followed by a video on Laurel Hill presented by Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Citizens' Task Force Chairman, Tim Johnson. Handouts will be provided, and there will be some static displays, such as maps and pictures of some proposals under consideration. Following this, there will be a question-and-answer period, and then some small-group "break-out" sessions to discuss ideas. The meeting will conclude with brief reports from these sessions, and an outline of the next steps in the master planning process.

There are two other public meetings in May. The first is set for Saturday, 3 May at Silverbrook Elementary (off Silverbrook Road in the Lorton area) from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is hosted by the Fairfax County Park Authority, and will be oriented towards reviewing specific proposals for park use on the Laurel Hill site. During this time, bus tours of the Laurel Hill site will be provided. The Adaptive Reuse Task Force, including Braddock District representative Bob Cosgriff, will attend this meeting and provide commentary on the Task Force function in the overall process, similar to the 27 May meeting. The other public meeting will be held at the Fairfax County Government Center on Thursday, 29 May from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Laurel Hill is a tremendous asset to all of Fairfax County, the region and the entire Commonwealth. It will take years to fully develop its potential. The informed input and support of Fairfax County residents will make Laurel Hill a treasure for generations to come. So please schedule time to come to the meeting hosted by Supervisor Bulova on Tuesday, 27 May. Be a part of the excitement of this bold undertaking.

## **BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP 2003 As of April 18, 2003**

Barton's Grove Home Owners Association 33  
Bonnie Brae Civic Association 305  
Briarwood Court Condominium 128  
Briarwood Home Owners Association 202  
Burke Center Conservancy 5,862  
Canterbury Woods Civic Association 517  
Carrleigh Home Owners Association 46  
Cavalcade Home Owners Association  
Chestnut Hills West 80  
Country Club View Civic Association 450  
Dunleigh Homeowners Association 148  
George Mason Forest Association 197  
Goins Manor Home Owners Association 27  
Hickory Farms Community Association 198  
Hillsdale Community Association  
Hunters Glen Homeowners Association 38  
Kings Park  
Lake Braddock Community Association 1,297  
Little Run Civic Association 650  
Long Branch Civic Association 325  
Middleridge Civic Association, Inc. 580  
Oak Hill Citizens Association 180  
Queens Gate Homeowners Association 88  
Red Fox Forest Civic Association 198  
Rutherford Civic Association  
Somerset South Homeowners Association  
Southport HOA 220  
Starlit Ponds Home Owners Association 135  
Stone Haven Civic Association 102  
Surrey Square Civic Association 175  
Talltree Gardens Condominium 186  
VandaLaneHOA 10  
Wakefield Chapel Woods HOA 103

Braddock District Council  
First Virginia Bank Balance is \$1,347.02 as of  
April 18, 2003  
IVAN N. DIETRICH, Treasurer

PROJECT SCOPE FOR  
**BEST OF BRADDOCK AWARDS**  
*(A.K.A. The “BOBs”)*

- A joint Braddock District Council/Braddock District Supervisor Program
- Done in conjunction with Braddock District Citizen of the Year, with awards given at June Picnic
  - Awards given under the following categories:
    - Neighborhood Enhancement/Beautification  
(awardee can be an individual homeowner and/or community association)
    - Commercial Beautification/Improvement  
(for going “above and beyond” requirements for landscaping, improvements to appearance, cleaning up blighted areas)
    - Most “Can Do” Public Employee  
(again, for going “above and beyond” when working on issues in the Braddock District)
    - Most Outstanding Business Person
    - Club or Organization Really Making a Difference
- Deadline for Submissions is May 15, 2003
- Winners Recognized via Certificates/Awards/Gift Certificates/Press Releases at BDC June Picnic

**Best of Braddock Awards**  
**The World Famous BOB’s**

**A joint Braddock District Council/Braddock District Supervisor Program to recognize those citizens, organizations and businesses of the Braddock District who have gone above and beyond to be the very best.**

**Name of Nominee** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Organization (if Applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_  
**e-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send completed nomination form to:**

**Best of Braddock Awards**  
**C/o Supervisor Sharon Bulova/Braddock District Council**  
**9002 Burke Lake Road**  
**Burke, VA 22015**      e-mail: [braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov)

**Fax: 703 503 9583**

## Category:

- A. **Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification**  
\_\_\_\_ Individual Homeowner      \_\_\_\_ Community Association
- B. **Commercial Beautification or Improvement**  
\_\_\_\_ Landscaping \_\_\_\_ Building Appearance \_\_\_\_ Clean Up \_\_\_\_ Other
- C. **Most “Can-Do” Public Employee working on issues in the Braddock District**  
\_\_\_\_ Federal      \_\_\_\_ State      \_\_\_\_ Local
- D. **Most Outstanding Business Person in the Braddock District**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- E. **Braddock District Club or Organization really making a difference**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Nomination Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization (if Applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**e-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

## Please Describe:

**Nature of work or accomplishment.**

**Give as much detail as possible including any relevant statistics and dates:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please, attach any documentation, letters of endorsement, pictures, or other materials.**

The Braddock District Council of Community Associations (BDC) provides a forum for representatives of residential community associations to express their views on major issues of common concern. The BDC is a section 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation, with geographic boundaries coterminous with the Braddock magisterial district. Meetings of the BDC are open to representatives of all homeowner, tenant and civic associations in the Braddock District. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, except July and August. The mailing address is:  
c/o Braddock Supervisor's Office  
9002 Burke Lake Road  
Burke, VA 22015-1608  
The Office telephone is 703-425-9300.

Chairman – John Fee (Middleridge)  
703-278-8200  
Vice chair – Robert Cosgriff (Hickory Farms)  
Treasurer – Ivan Dietrich (Woods of Ilda)  
703-323-1881  
Corresponding Secretary – Brenda Cammauf  
(Heritage Court)  
Recording Secretary – (This could be you)  
Internet address:  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/bos/bd/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/bos/bd/)